

Draft Environmental Assessment

West Shore State Park Campground Electrification Project



March 7, 2008



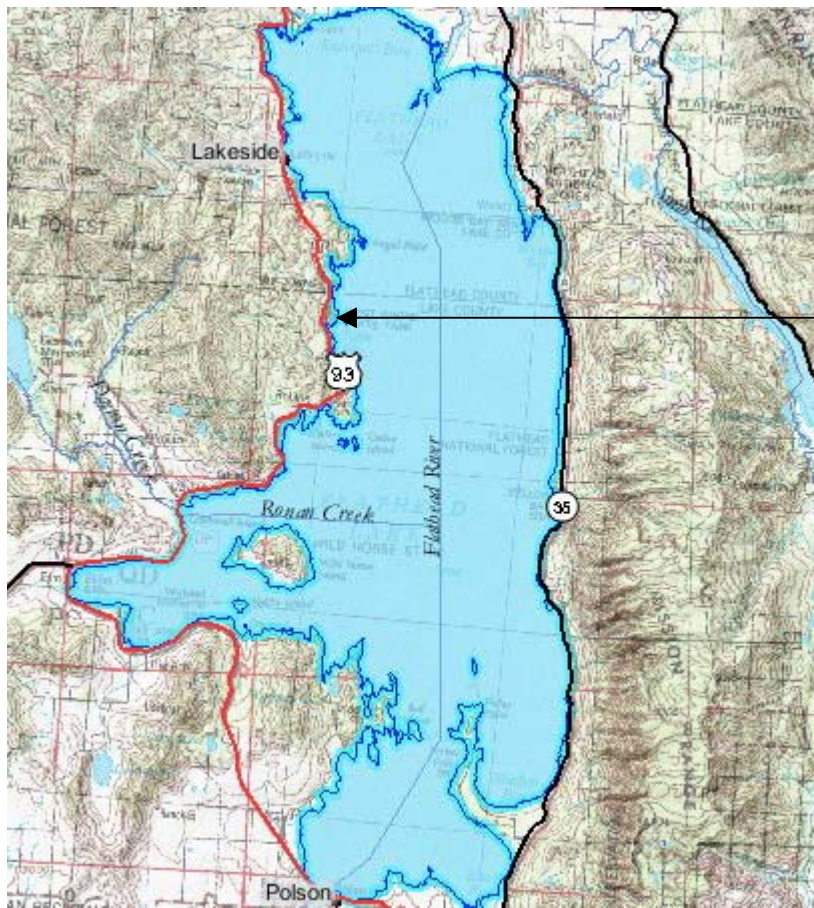
***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Draft Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Proposed state action:** FWP proposes to install approximately fourteen campsite electrical pedestals within campground Loop B at West Shore State Park. Additionally, the proposed project will require electrical infrastructure improvements, such as a new transformer box and electrical panel, to support the new pedestals.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:**
FWP has the authority to develop outdoor recreational resources in the state per 23-2-101 MCA.

Furthermore, state Statute 23-1-110 MCA and ARM 12.6.601-606 guide public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks and fishing access sites, which this document provides.
3. **Name of project:** West Shore State Park Campground Electrification Project
4. **Project sponsor:**
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501
5. **Approximate timetable:**
Estimated construction/commencement date: Early spring 2008
Estimated completion date: Mid summer 2008
Current status of project design (% complete): 25%
6. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township):**
Lake County, Section 4, T25N, R20W. The site is 20 miles south of Kalispell on Flathead Lake and comprises of 129 acres owned by FWP since 1966. See the following page for a location map.



West Shore
State Park

7. Project size:

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(b) Open Space/ Woodlands/Recreation	<u>2</u>	Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
		Forestry	<u>0</u>
		Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

8. Listing of any other local, state, or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) **Permits:** Permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

State electrical permit secured by contractor.

(b) **Funding:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks \$ 75,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Montana State Historical Preservation Office	Archeological & Cultural Site Protection

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

West Shore State Park is located south of the community of Lakeside on Flathead Lake. This approach to the lake is heavily used year-round since it provides convenient access to some of the better fishing opportunities on the lake. Historically, the number of visitors to the park has stayed consistent at approximately 19,000 per year over the past five years with the bulk of those visiting for day-use activities. FWP expects the proposed improvements and those recently completed within campground Loop A will result in a higher number of overnight campers staying at West Shore. In 2006, approximately 40% of the visitors to the park came for the camping opportunities.

In a 2006 survey of the park's visitors, results reflected that 90% of respondents were pleased with the park's facilities and felt the fee charged for camping was fair. In the same survey, visitors were asked how important it was for electrical hook-ups to be added to the park's campsites. Nearly, 48% replied that adding hook-ups was an important service that should be considered for the facilities in the future. Currently, the park has 3 campsites with electrical pedestals, 2 are for seasonal campground hosts and are unavailable for rent by the public. The other is a handicapped-accessible campsite in Loop B. The handicapped-accessible site is reserved for disabled campers until 7 p.m. each evening. Nondisabled campers may rent the site after that time. With only one electrical site available, only one disabled camper with needs for electricity can be accommodated at a time. The demand by nondisabled campers to utilize the accessible site after 7 p.m. is strong, and RVs occupying standard campsites frequently utilize generators to power appliances resulting in higher noise levels which conflict with the quiet setting of the campground.

The preliminary plan for the proposed project will require infrastructure improvements that will include the positioning of a new electrical conduit from the power source near the upper parking area to a new electrical panel, which will then facilitate the distribution of the electricity to the campground Loop B pedestals. This plan is designed with all conduits underground (i.e., trenching) so that the natural environment of the park can be maintained. Ground-disturbing activities are required in order to bury the conduits, and some ground-covering vegetation will be displaced. Efforts will be taken to limit effects to mature trees, and all disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation.

As a final component of the improvements, a courtesy light is planned for the restroom at the end of the campground loop. Although many of the campers in this area of the park will likely have their own restroom with their RVs, some tent campers do utilize the sites. The light will increase the safety and convenience to them after dark.

10. Alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action – FWP does not install electrical hook-ups in campground Loop B.

If FWP chooses not to improve a portion of the existing campsites with electrical outlets (pedestals), pressure on one accessible pedestal will likely continue to increase because of the swell in RVs and 5th-wheel campers that desire the opportunity to "plug in" when they visit a campground.

If the campground at West Shore State Park is not improved to accommodate this portion of campers, visitors may choose to recreate elsewhere, thus reducing the potential income generated by camping fees for the park for additional park improvements.

Alternative B: FWP proceeds with installation of electrical hook-ups at campsites in Loop B.

The proposed enhancement to the campground Loop B at West Shore State Park would provide an additional incentive for recreationalists to stay at the park versus choosing to stay at other privately owned campgrounds along the western shore of Flathead Lake.

With the completion of the proposed enhancement, pressure on the existing handicapped-accessible campsite would be alleviated, and the new outlets will reduce the need for visitors to rely on noisy generators to power their campers and recharge their boating equipment.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

The analysis of the physical and human environments discussed on the following pages is limited to Alternative B, the preferred action. The reason for this is because based on the description of Alternative A, FWP would not pursue the electrification of campground Loop B within West Shore State Park. The park staff would continue to do routine maintenance of the current facilities at the campground loop, as well as in the remainder of the park.

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		yes	1b
c. Destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

- 1b. The trenching that will be required for the proposed electrification of campground Loop B will disturb ground covering and related soils to an anticipated depth of 24". This will provide enough width and depth for the conduits and required fill materials. With the completion of the installation of the conduits, the disturbed areas will be reclaimed and reseeded with native vegetation to decrease the potential for erosion. The proposed design will also require a limited number of cuts to the existing asphalt across the access road. When the installation is completed, the asphalt will be repaired so normal traffic patterns can resume.

Within the project area, the soil is classified as Repp gravelly loam with a thirty-to-sixty percent slope.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X			2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. <u>For P-R/D-J projects</u> , will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				
f. Other:		X				

- 2 a/b. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by construction equipment during the trenching for the conduit and placement of the new electrical panels and pedestals. After the project's completion, the amount of dust and emissions will return to normal levels.

An expected benefit of the new pedestals is the likely reduction of personal generator use, which is anticipated to improve air quality in the immediate area.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		yes	3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		X				
m. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		X				
n. Other:		X				

- 3b. The proposed project is not expected to alter any surface drainage patterns. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation to decrease the potential chance of different drainage patterns becoming established in the vicinity of the covered trenches.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		yes	4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

- 4a. It is anticipated that a limited number of shrubs may be adversely impacted by the location of the conduit trenches and require the removal of those individual plants. Efforts will be taken to limit impacts to mature trees such as limiting the placement of conduits beyond a 12' buffer zone when possible. Because of the planned underground design of the conduits, surface vegetation will be displaced, but reseeding the disturbed areas with native plants will mitigate these influences to the overall plant community.
- 4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database revealed no occurrences of plant life that is designated a species of concern, threatened, or endangered within the park.
- 4e. Installation of the electrical enhancements will likely increase the possibility of noxious weeds becoming established within the campground loop since there are noxious weeds already in the area. Mitigating actions will include reseeding with native species and monitoring of growth of noxious weeds at disturbed areas. Any noxious weeds discovered will be eradicated using Integrated Weed Management (IWM) methods identified in the 2002 Region 1 Noxious Weed and Exotic Vegetation Management Plan.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				5c
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest, or other human activity)?		X				
h. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5d.)		X				
i. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		X				
j. Other:		X				

5 b/c. Since this location is already receiving recreational use, the impact to game (black bear, elk, deer species) and nongame species (small mammals, birds) would be minimal during the construction period. Elk are known to use the state park for winter habitat, and deer and black bear seasonally move through the area. During the trenching activities, some species will likely move from the vicinity of the campground for a limited period of time. The reseeding of unstable areas will return the overall plant community to close to the pre-installation habitat, so it is likely there will be minimal impacts to wildlife visiting the campground area. (Communications with Gael Bissell, FWP Region 1 Wildlife Biologist.)

5f. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database revealed no occurrences of species that is designated a species of concern, threatened, or endangered within the park.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			X			6b
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

6 a/b. There would be a temporary increase in noise levels at Loop B due to the construction equipment during the course of the project. After the completion, noise levels as a result of campers' personal generators is anticipated to be reduced, since it is expected most RV campers will use the pedestals for electricity.

The project is intended to be completed in the late fall or early spring during low visitation periods when the camp loop is closed. This will limit the inconvenience to park visitors.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X			7a
b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use, the presence of which would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

- 7a. The proposed enhancement to campground Loop B will not change the existing use of the area, but will provide the potential for the park to increase the profitability of the campground. Those campers wanting to use the pedestals will be charged an additional \$3 per night for the service beyond the normal \$15 per night camping fee.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		yes	8a
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X			8d
e. Other:		X				

- 8 a/d. Chemical spraying maybe used to deter the establishment and growth of noxious weeds in the proposed construction areas. Weed treatment will follow the guidelines of the Region 1 Weed Management Plan.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?			X			9d
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

- 9d. The electrification of a portion of the campsites within West Shore State Park may affect nearby private campgrounds negatively because campers may choose to stay at the park rather than at commercial facilities because of the lower price (\$18 at the park).

The closest private campgrounds are located in Lakeside, which is 5 miles north, and Elmo, which is 15 miles south of West Shore State Park. Each of these private campgrounds charge \$35 or more per night, but each facility does offer additional services that are not available at West Shore, such as laundry, sewer, and water hook-ups. FWP limits camper stays to 7 days within a 30-day period, whereas at the campgrounds at Lakeside and Elmo, patrons can choose to stay as long as they want.

University of Montana's Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research survey of traveler characteristics based from summer 2006 statistics reflected that the same percentage of respondents stayed overnight at private campgrounds compared to public campgrounds when visiting Flathead County. So, there appears to be no dominant preference by campers as to which type of campground they stay at.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify.		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X			10c
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10d
e. Define projected revenue sources.						10e
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10f
g. Other:		X				

- 10c. The proposed action will require the establishment of new underground electrical conduit lines between existing and, possibly, new electrical panels in order to provide electricity to new outlet pedestals. The proposed new conduits will not affect the existing electrical conduit that supports the ADA-accessible campsite in campground Loop B.
- 10d. The proposed installation of electric hookups for a portion of the campsites at West Shore State Park is expected to increase the park's consumption of electricity. Furthermore, the convenience of the campsite outlets will provide visitors the opportunity to recharge boating equipment, cell phones, and other electronic equipment.
- 10e. If Alternative B (electrification) were completed, the park could expect an increase in revenue generated during a normal summer season (June 1– September 4) of approximately \$3,456 if current occupancy levels continue. This is due to the difference in the overnight camping fees from \$15 for a nonpedestal campsite versus \$18 for a campsite with an electrical hook-up. Revenues would be higher if occupancy levels rise.
- 10f. Little increases to current maintenance costs are expected by the proposed improvements. A few electrical breaker switches may need to be replaced on occasion.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				11b
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)		X				11c
d. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

11b. The anticipated design of the electrification project will have all conduits underground with only the outlet pedestals and electrical panel visible. This design will ensure the natural beauty of the state park is maintained.

11c. There will be no impact on tourism opportunities at the site. See *Appendix D* for the Tourism Report.

There is the possibility the southwestern campground loop may need to be closed to campers for a limited amount time when trenching is required through the access road. If required, FWP will work with the contractor to schedule this project element so that potential park visitors are the least inconvenienced.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure, or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)	X					12d
e. Other:		X				

- 12 d. Although there have been two cultural assessments completed by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in the West Shore State Park area, SHPO's records have not indicated any known sensitive areas within the park. SHPO has recommended a cultural resource inventory be completed within the project area to ensure no culturally sensitive sites are impacted by the proposed improvements. FWP's cultural resource specialist will conduct the inventory prior to the start of the project. See *Appendix E* for SHPO's recommendation letter.

Additionally, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will be contacted to ensure no known cultural sites are affected by the proposed project.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard, or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				13e
f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

13 e. No public controversy is expected and the project will not create any cumulatively negative impacts that might affect the use of the park by visitors.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Final plans and specifications for the project will be developed by the state-appointed engineering consultant in conjunction with FWP engineering staff. FWP engineers will design other portions of the project. All state and federal permits will be obtained by FWP. Construction will be completed by a private contractor selected through the state's competitive bid process. Final inspection will be the responsibility of the FWP Design and Construction Bureau.

State pesticide use laws and regulations will be followed. Application records will be submitted to the Montana Department of Agriculture as required every five years, and these records will be available to state investigators upon request.

If the cultural resource inventory identifies any previously unknown historic sites in the path of the underground conduits, FWP will work with SHPO and FWP's cultural resource specialist to discuss alternatives to the design of the conduit system to ensure culturally sensitive areas are not disturbed.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed installation of electrical hookups in the Loop B campground within West Shore State Park will meet the increasing needs of campers and boaters wanting to utilize electricity to charge batteries and power camping comforts, such as air conditioning, refrigerator, and TVs. The addition of electricity at the Loop B campground will also provide additional opportunities for disabled campers who may require electricity for medical reasons. Finally, FWP expects a decrease in nuisance noise produced by individual generators in use by campers.

Because of the scope of the proposed improvements, it is expected there will be a limited number of impacts to the human and physical environment. However, most of these influences, which were previously noted, are expected to be only for the relatively short duration of the construction period with no lasting negative effects on the local environment. For those actions requiring minor mitigation, such as the trenching of the electrical system for the hook-ups and connections to the existing power source, efforts will be taken to reseed disturbed areas, and efforts will be taken not to stress mature trees in the vicinity of the conduits. The reseeding of the affected areas will decrease the chance of noxious weeds being established and will limit erosion. Additionally, FWP's cultural survey of the project will ensure previously unknown historic areas are not affected by the conduit and pedestal system.

The facility improvement to the West Shore State Park is expected to improve camper satisfaction to ensure returning visitors and increase revenue generated by camping fees for future park improvements.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action, and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Helena Independent Record*, *Daily Inter Lake*, and the *Lake County Leader*;

- One statewide press release;
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having few minor impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

2. Duration of comment period:

The public comment period will extend for (21) twenty-one days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., March 27, 2008, and can be mailed to the address below:

West Shore State Park Electrification Project
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 1 Headquarters
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Or email comments to: jsawyer@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)?**
If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on the criteria provided by MEPA Model Rule III to assess if an EIS is required, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts will be created from the proposed action. Therefore, an EIS is not necessary and an EA is the appropriate level of analysis.

2. Persons responsible for preparing the EA:

Jerry Sawyer
Park Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59405
406-751-4575

Merl Phillips
Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59405
406-751-4578

Rebecca Cooper
MEPA Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena MT 59601
406-444-4756

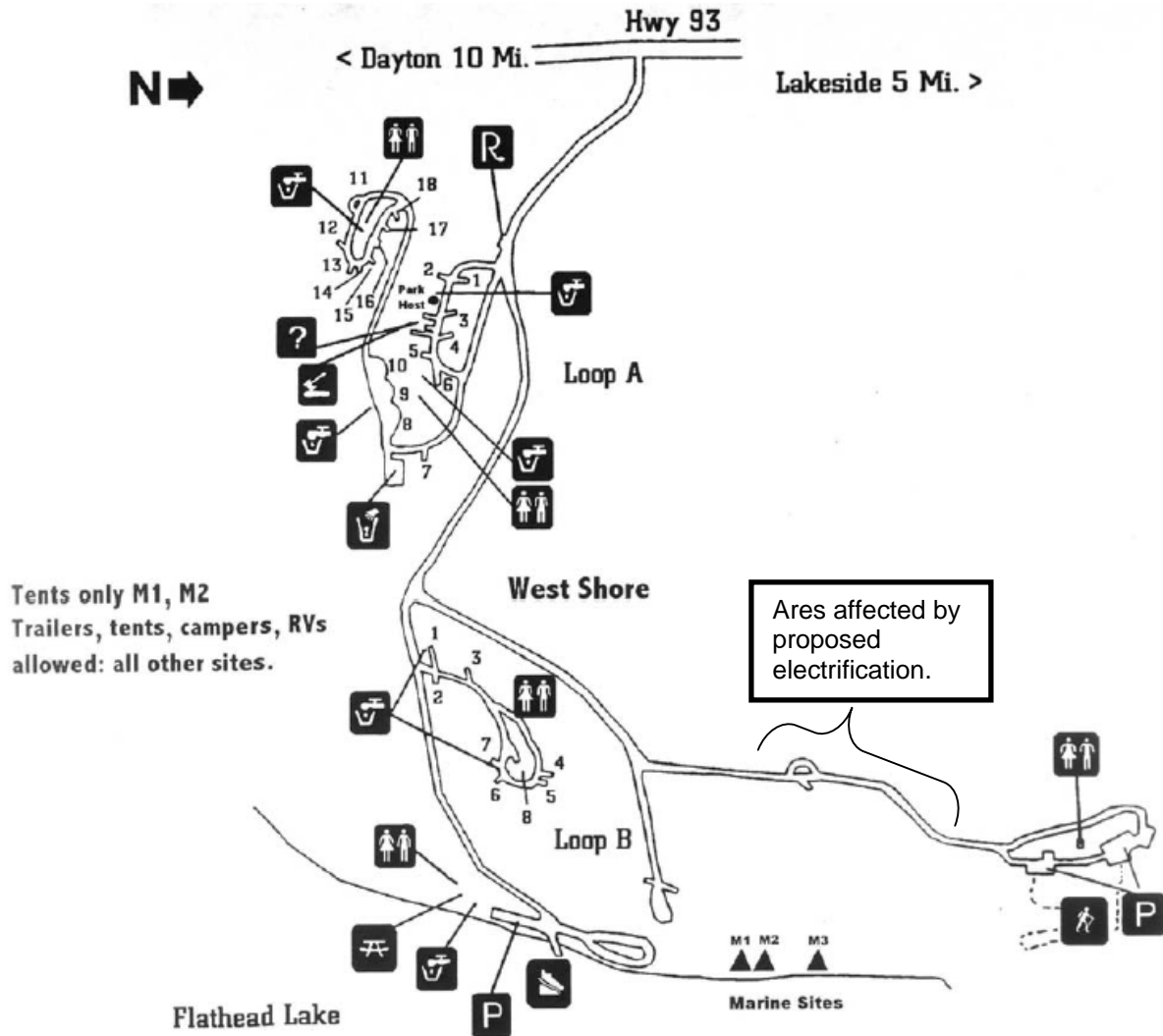
3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
 Parks Division
 Wildlife Division
 Fisheries Division
 Design & Construction Bureau
 Legal Bureau
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
University of Montana – Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research

APPENDICES

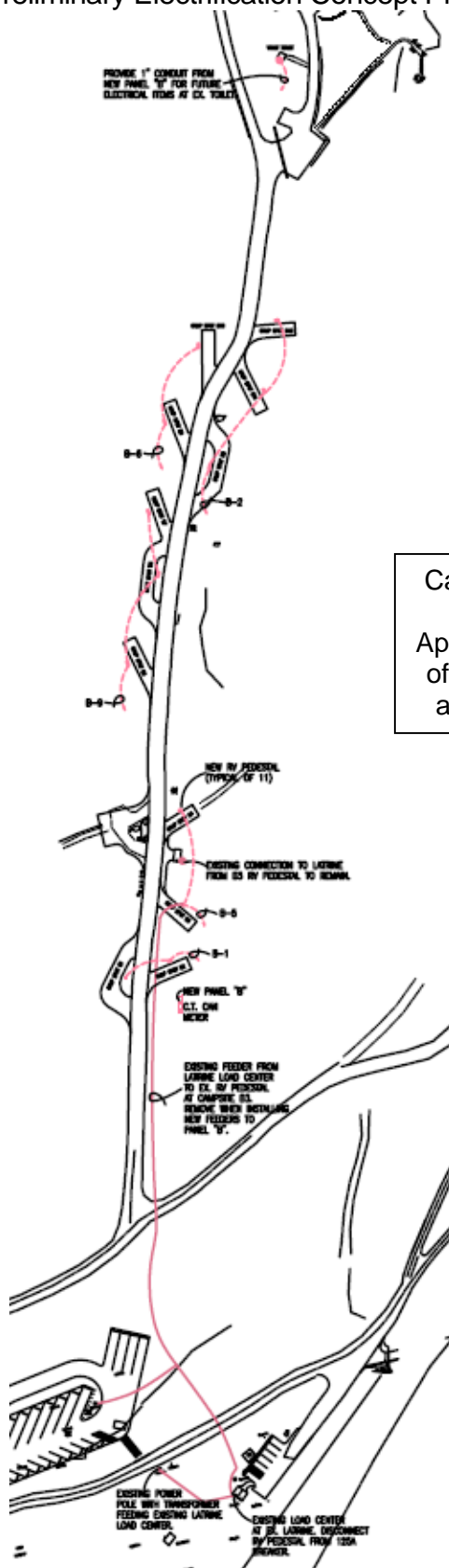
- A. West Shore State Park Map
- B. Preliminary Electrification Concept Plan
- C. Department of Commerce - Tourism Report
- D. State Historic Preservation Office – Recommendation Letter

APPENDIX A **West Shore State Park Map**



APPENDIX B

Preliminary Electrification Concept Plan



Campground Loop B

Approximate locations
of electrical conduits
are denoted in red.



APPENDIX C

TOURISM REPORT MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Tourism Development Specialist
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Project Name: West Shore State Park Electrification Project

Project Description: The installation of fourteen camp-side electrical hook-ups within the campgrounds at West Shore State Park, which south of Lakeside, Montana. The new service will meet the needs of RVs and 5th-wheel campers staying the park and will be an incentive for tourists in the area to choose this state park to overnight in.

The anticipated electrical design will encompass underground conduits between the source of electricity and between campsite pedestals. Additionally, the proposed project will require the improvement of the park's electrical infrastructure to support the pedestals, which is likely to include a new transformer box and electrical panel.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation economy.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

As described, the project would improve the quality and quantity of tourism and recreation opportunities.

Signature Carol Crockett Date 1-3-08

2/93
7/98sed

APPENDIX D

TO: Paul Valle

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

January 7, 2008

Sara Scott
FWP
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2008

FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

CLAIMS

RECEIVED
JAN 9 2008
STATE PARKS
DIVISION

RE: WEST SHORE STATE PARK, ELECTRICAL HOOKUP INSTALLATION. SHPO
Project #: 2008010405

Dear Sara:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 4, T25N R20W. According to our records there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. However, there have been two previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. I've attached a list of these reports. If you would like any further information regarding these reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

After a review of the two previous inventories it was found that only a small portion of West Shore State Park has been surveyed. Based on the lack of previous inventory and the ground disturbance required by this undertaking we feel that this project may have the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/PARKS/2007

*Paul - FYI
I will do this
survey work,
let's talk
about scheduling
this! Sara*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ♦ 1410 8th Ave ♦ P.O. Box 201202 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1202
♦ (406) 444-7715 ♦ FAX (406) 444-6575